

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13  
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02  
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SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0062

E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR  
SUBJ: MBFR: SUMMARY OF INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPRESENTA-  
TIVES OF FEBRUARY 14, 1978

FOURTEENTH ROUND:

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE FEBRUARY 14, 1978 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE FRG, NETHERLANDS AND US REPS, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS TARASOV AND SHUSTOV, POLISH REP STRULAK AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP KEBLUSEK.

2. EACH SIDE MADE A SINGLE GENERAL STATEMENT. THE BULK OF THE SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF THE TEXT OF ORAL STATEMENTS TO BE MADE PRECEDING A DATA EXCHANGE. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT THEY CONTINUED UNWILLING TO DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE ADDITIONS PROPOSED BY THE WEST TO THE DECEMBER 14 TEXT, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT FORESEE DIFFICULTIES IN DEALING WITH "SECONDARY ISSUES" OF THIS KIND. DESPITE THESE STATEMENTS, EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES DID QUESTION THE

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NEED FOR THE DISCLAIMER PROPOSED BY THE WEST FOR INCLUSION IN SECTION 4. IN THE INTEREST OF MOVING TOWARDS AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT, WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES SAID THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO DROP THE BRACKETS THEY HAD PLACED ON THE MENTION OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL IN SECTION 3 OF THE PROPOSED STATEMENTS IN RETURN FOR THE EAST'S ACCEPTANCE OF ALL OTHER CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE WEST.

3. US REP LED OFF WITH A RESPONSE TO THE EASTERN CRITICISM IN THE FEBRUARY 7 INFORMAL SESSION THAT US FORCE INCREASES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS CONFLICTED WITH THE VERY IDEA OF THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. HE SAID THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS WAS ONE WHERE NO AGREEMENT ON REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS HAD BEEN REACHED OR WAS IN PROGRESS. THE SITUATION IN THE REDUCTION AREA WAS CHARACTERIZED BY A LARGE NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN EASTERN FORCES. DURING THE TALKS, THE EAST HAD BEEN INCREASING ITS FORCES IN THE AREA, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS ITS MAJOR ARMAMENTS, THUS ADDING TO ITS NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR THE WEST UNILATERALLY TO ABSTAIN FROM EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS MILITARY CAPABILITIES IN THE AREA WOULD DIMINISH WESTERN SECURITY. THE WEST CONTINUED PREPARED TO REDUCE AND LIMIT GROUND FORCE MANPOWER IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH A SATISFACTORY REDUCTIONS AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD RESULT IN PARITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER, THUS ELIMINATING ANY NEED FOR THE WEST TO INCREASE ITS MANPOWER.

4. CZECHOSLOVAK REP KEBLUSEK MADE A STANDARD PRESENTATION ON THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH. HIS CRITICISM OF THE WEST FOCUSSED ON THE UNWILLINGNESS OF NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO UNDERTAKE AT LEAST GENERAL COMMITMENTS ON THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF THEIR STAGE 2 REDUCTIONS.

5. POLISH REP SAID THE EAST WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED WESTERN AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXT OF THE DECEMBER 14 STATEMENT IF  
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THE WEST WERE PREPARED TO STATE ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL AS THE BASIS OF DATA EXCHANGE. ONCE THIS WAS DONE, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE PROMPTLY TO WORK OUT AND MAKE PRECISE THE REMAINING FORMULATIONS IN THE TEXT WHICH WERE OF SECONDARY CHARACTER. THE EAST WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER THE WESTERN AMENDMENTS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY AFTER THE MAIN ISSUE HAD BEEN AGREED ON.

6. FRG REP AGAIN PRESSED FOR EASTERN COMMITMENTS ON PROPOSED WESTERN AMENDMENTS. IN RESPONSE, TARASOV ADDRESSED THE WESTERN SUGGESTION TO INCLUDE A SHORT DISCLAIMER IN SECTION 4 OF THE PROPOSED STATEMENTS. HE SAID THIS SUGGESTION INTRODUCED A NEW ELEMENT INTO THE WORKING PAPER WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO BE STRIPPED DOWN AND LIMITED TO DISCUSSION OF THE DATA TO BE EXCHANGED. GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE WEST WANTED TO DELETE THE LANGUAGE REFERENCING THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL, THE WEST'S DESIRE TO INCLUDE A DISCLAIMER IN THE TEXT COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED BY LOGIC.

7. NETHERLANDS REP SUMMARIZED REASONS WHY WEST FOUND IT UNACCEPTABLE TO EXPLICITLY STATE ITS ACCEPTANCE OF OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL.

8. US REP SAID THE DISCLAIMER WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES. HE SAID THAT, IN THE INTEREST OF MOVING TOWARDS RAPID DATA EXCHANGE,

THE WEST WOULD BE PREPARED TO DROP ITS PROPOSAL OF DELETION OF THE MENTION OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL IN SECTION 3 OF THE TEXT AND TO INCLUDE THE PREVIOUSLY DRAFTED LANGUAGE IN RETURN FOR EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE WHICH THE WEST PROPOSED FOR SECTIONS 2 AND 4 AND EASTERN AGREEMENT TO THE DELETION OF THE BRACKETS IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF SECTION 2. US REP PROPOSED HOLDING A FURTHER SESSION ON TEXT ON FEBRUARY 16. TARASOV SAID THE EAST WOULD STUDY THIS WESTERN PROPOSAL CAREFULLY AND RESPOND SUBSEQUENTLY. END SUMMARY. RESOR

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## Message Attributes

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